

Please amend Claims 6-7 as follows:

~~5~~ (Once Amended) A [cereal product] pet kibble according to claim [1] ~~21~~¹ in which

the probiotic micro-organism is selected from the group consisting of *Bacillus coagulans*, *Bacillus licheniformis*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Bifidobacterium animalis/longum*, *L. johnsonii* La1, *Pediococcus acidilactici*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, and *Enterococcus faecium* SF68.

~~6~~⁶ (Once Amended) A [cereal product] pet kibble according to claim [1] ~~21~~¹ further

containing a source of soluble fiber.

Please cancel Claims 8-10 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add newly submitted Claims 21 and 22 as follows:

~~1-21~~ A dried, ready-to-eat pet food kibble comprising:

a gelatinized starch matrix;

a lipid coating around the gelatinized starch matrix, the lipid coating including a probiotic micro-organism; and

a flavor coating including a protein digest.

~~1-22~~ A dried, ready-to-eat pet food kibble comprising:

a gelatinized starch matrix which includes a component chosen from the group consisting of inulin and fructo-oligosaccharides;

a coating containing a probiotic micro-organism.

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on February 5, 1999. The Office Action rejects Claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. In